



Connecting Research to Practice: Online Learning Opportunities for Rural Schools

August 4, 2010

Madison, WI

Draft Agenda

8:15 – 9:00 a.m.

Registration

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Matt Dawson, Ph.D., Director, REL Midwest: Overview of the agenda for the day, the REL Network and Bridge events

Doris Terry Williams, Ph.D., Director of Capacity Building for the Rural School and Community Trust: Brief background discussion of rural education and introduction of Dr. Matt Irvin

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Framing the Conversation: Enhancing the Educational Outcomes of Low Achieving Rural Children through Distance Learning and Technology

- **Keynote Presenter:** Matt Irvin, Ph.D., National Research Center on Rural Education Support

*Dr. Irvin will review the research related to online learning, distance education, and specifics of the Center's work with a focus on technology.
(60 minute presentation and 30 minutes for Q&A)*

11:00 – 11:15 a.m.

Break

11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Panel Reactions to Dr. Irvin's Presentation

- *The panel will include Dr. Doris Terry Williams; a superintendent from a rural district with online learning experience; Melanie Laber, Michigan's Online Teacher of the Year; and a selected student from a rural district. Each member will react to the presentation for approximately 10 minutes with an additional 15 minutes for questions and comments from the audience.*

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Working Lunch: Rural K-12 Students' Learning in Virtual School Environments

- **Keynote Presenter:** Michael Barbour, Ph. D., Assistant Professor in Instructional Technology, Wayne State University

Dr. Barbour's presentation will address differences in student achievement with regard to delivery model and urban-rural distinctions as well as characteristics and components of effectively designed web-based courses. (45 minute presentation and 15 minutes for Q&A)

1:00 – 2:15 p.m.

Virtual Algebra study: Impact of Offering an Online Algebra I Course to 8th Graders with No Local Access

- **Keynote Presenter:** Peggy Clements, Ph.D., REL-NEI
Dr. Clements will provide an overview of the intervention and the design, sample, and implementation of the study. The presentation will not present study findings. (60 minute presentation and 15 minutes for Q&A)

2:15 – 2:30 p.m.

Break

2:30 – 3:15 p.m.

Reflections and Connections

- *REL Midwest staff will facilitate small group discussions of the research and resources that were presented to help the participants reflect on the presentations and process the application of the research that was presented to their school or district context. Guided questions might include:*
 - *What are 3 useful take-aways or highlights from today's presentations that can assist in your work with distance education in rural settings?*
 - *What are 2 roadblocks you might face and how might you surmount these obstacles?*

- *What is one way that you will apply what you have learned today to improve educational opportunities for rural students?*

3:15 – 3:45 p.m.

Sharing Connections and Concluding Remarks

▪ *Presenters:*

- Dr. Matt Irvin, National Research Center on Rural Education Support
- Dr. Peggy Clements, REL-NEI
- Dr. Michael Barbour, Wayne State University

Dr. Irvin, Dr. Clements, and Dr. Barbour will highlight themes from the day, respond to questions from the audience and offer concluding remarks.

3:45 p.m.

Adjourn